RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1917.

The report, although greatly abbreviated, aims at giving the same information as has been furnished to the Committee in previous years.

A STATMENT SHOWING THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER BY NURSES, MANAGERS, TEACHERS, AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS.

During the first months of the year 1917, Nurse Pratt continued her work in the Schools. She then resigned and the vacancy was not filled until October 15th 1917.

During the year, the Nurses appointed made 467 visits to the homes of children in connection with infectious diseases and the following up of defects. I cannot recall a single instance in which the Nurses persuaded the parents to obtain treatment.

In addition, systematic inspection of the children for cleanliness was carried out in all the Schools in the County. 3,172 inspections were held.

Nits and pediculi were found in 23 instances, numerous nits in 28, and a few nits in 100. Dirty bodies were reported in 18 instances, dirty clothes in 20 and bad footgear was noted on 40 occasions.

In my opinion, this is an understatement of the facts.

Thus, in one school recently, the School Medical Officer found eight cases of nits and pediculi during a medical re-inspection.

The number of dirty heads and bodies found by the School Medical Officer during routine inspections when the parents are given due notice of his arrival, is, respectively, 159 and 19. It should be noted that the School Medical Officer gives due notice of his visit and that his examinations are limited to routine inspections and re-inspections. It is unfortunate that the subject of pediculosis in children is not of greater interest to the nursing profession.

It affords a wide field for research. The habits of this post are not accurately known. Its influence on sleep, nutrition and general efficiency are scarcely appreciated. What is its importance as a carrier of disease?

Is there any ground for the oft repeated statement of parents that some of their children breed lice and others do not? Such questions might be solved by an enthusiastic nurse.

School Managers and Others.

Managers of schools and others have continued as heretofore to readily give assistance whenever this is asked.

Lady Codrington, Mrs Hodge, Miss Barrow, Miss Richardson, Sir Arthur Fludyer, Lord Ranksborough, Lord Ancaster, Colonel the Honourable John Gretton, Messrs David Royce, Royce Turner, Needham, Rowell, Power, Rev. C.Creighton and Mrs Compton have placed numerous local hospital letters at my disposal. Letters for the National Orthopaedic Hospital have been most kindly given by Lord Ancaster for those cases which are suffering from severe deformities due to infantile paralysis. The Chairman of this Committee, the Venerable Archdeacon Moore, kindly sent a case of heart trouble to a convalescent home.

This year I have had no report from the Oakham Care Committee, but from my own re-inspections, I found that of 25 cases of nose and throat trouble referred to them, only one obtained treatment, and that was obtained through the agency of the County Medical Officer.

Of 15 cases of bad eyesight, only two have received attention.

I have written to all the parents and from 20 I have received replies. Seven stated they would like the children treated but could not afford it, eleven objected to treatment, one denied the existence of the defects and one was about the leave the Town.

The large number of persons objecting to treatment is noteworthy, especially as these cases have been visited by members of the Oakham Care Committee and the School Nurse. It is doubtful if voluntary effort will be able to cope with the stupidity of parents, and I am therefore, doubtful if the setting up of care committees throughout the County will effect any great improvement in the number of children obtaining treatment.

School Attendance Officers.

During the year I have ~~received only 54 communications from~~ School Attendance Officers, 19 being from the Officer for the Oakham District, 10 from the Ketton area and 5 from the Uppingham District. I have not received a single communication from the Clerks to the School Attendance Committees with regard to children who are chronic invalids. During the year I discovered one child who had been away from school for years with unnotified tuberculous disease of the joints, another with chronic endocarditis and another with supposed tuberculous peritonitis.

From your Director of Education's report I quote as follows :-

" During the past year, 12 out of every hundred children on the books of the schools were absent every time the schools were opened ".

In view of this statement and the remarks I have made as to the medical aspect of the question, re-consideration of the whole system might be beneficial.

Head Teachers and Others.

I continue to appreciate the kindly aid of the Head Teachers. Miss Weightman is now my clerk and has given most satisfactory help during the year.

EXTENT AND SCOPE OF THE WORK OF MEDICAL INSPECTION PERFORMED IN THE YEAR 1917.

1. The number of visits paid to Schools and Departments.

Every school in the County was inspected and re-inspected between January 1st and December 31st 1917.

218 visits were made by the School Medical Officer to the 44 different Schools and Departments as compared with 216 in 1916. 68 of those visits were devoted to routine inspections, 26 to the following up of ringworm cases, 52 to re-inspections, 25 to the examination of physically and mentally defective children, 32 for investigating outbreaks of infectious disease, 13 for school attendance matters and 2 for questions of sanitation of School premises. Nine specimens of hairs and two samples of sputum were examined microscopically.

2. The number of children examined.

Children are examined on admission, between the ages of 8 and 9 years, on reaching their twelfth birthday, those who work out of school hours and all who are considered backward or delicate by their parents or teachers.

The total number of children examined was 948 as compared with 944 in 1916, 1,074 in 1915, 848 in 1914, 970 in 1913, 901 in 1912, 980 in 1911 and 870 in 1910. As it was not until 1915 that children between the ages of 8 and 9 were inspected as a matter of routine, those figures point to a gradually decreasing youthful population, a decrease which is bound to go on for some years to come. The birth rate has decreased alarmingly in Rutland during the last year and the fact must be borne in mind in making plans for the future.

299 of the 948 children examined were entrants or between the ages of 4 and 6 years, 363 were "Intermediates" between the ages of 8 and 9, 204 were "leavers" between the ages of 12 and 14 years, and 81 were specials. 471 of the 948 were boys and 477 were girls.

In this connection I should state that 91 children did not present themselves for examination at the routine inspections. In 37 instances the parents wrote saying that they objected to the examination, 7 boys were away working on the land, 20 were away ill at the time of the inspections, 16 had left the County, 1 died before the examination could take place and in 10 no cause was forthcoming.

With regard to the 37 cases of objection, it is interesting to observe that as many as 26 occurred in Oakham and that only one objection was received at Uppingham and one at Ketton.

643 children were re-inspected during the year, 298 of these being boys and 345 girls. Altogether 1,591 children were inspected during the year by the School Medical Officer.

During the year 72 children who worked out of school hours were medically examined, 66 of these were boys and 6 girls. 21 of these ran errands, 26 worked on the land or in gardens, 19 worked as home boys or domestic servants, 8 distributed papers and 3 milk.

10 worked over 40 hours a week, 17 over 30, 14 over 20 and 31 under 20. The longest number of hours worked was 60 but this boy was exempted from school for farm work. He earned 9/- a week.

Ten of these children or 13,7% were backward in their studies. Eleven or over 15.2% had dirty bodies or heads, 5 or 6.9% suffered from enlarged tonsils and adenoids, 4 or 5.5% from bad eyesight, 3 or 4% from deafness and one from each of the following:-
stammering, enlarged glands and icthyosis.
As will be seen when compared with the routine and special groups, there is no excess of ill health to be demonstrated among these children. On the other hand, I am certain that children should not be allowed to work over 20 hours a week out of school hours. Ina County like Rutland, work out of school hours has not the objectional features of work in cotton and other factories.

Extent to which Disturbances of School Arrangements was Involved by the Inspections.

This has been trifling, but in the following single roomed schools the children have, when the weather permitted, continued their studies in the playground. Egleton, Edith Weston, Ridlington, Pickworth and Cottesmore Infants.

During the year the Board of Education gave their consent to the work of routine inspection at the Oakham Boys' , Girls' and Infants' School being carried out at the County Education Office, Burley Rd.

Attendance of Parents.

658 of the 948 children examined were accompanied by one or other of their parents, guardians or friends, a percentage of 69.4. This is the first occasion on which the attendance has sunk to below 70% and is no doubt due to the fact that numerous mothers are employed on the land and in some instances perhaps, to the delay in the postal delivery of letters of invitation to be present.

Clothing.

Six children only among the 948 examined had bad or dirty clothes, a percentage of .60 This is a great decrease on the last two years when 3.6% and 2.0% had faulty garments. Together with children left over from last year, 10 cases were kept under observation. On 3 no report was available, 4 were treated, one being remedied and 3 improved and 3 received no treatment.

Footgear.

Eighteen of the 948 examined had bad boots, a percentage of 1.9 Three of the worst cases left over from last year were kept under observation. 13 of the 21 cases were treated, 5 were remedied and 8 were improved. 6 were not treated and in 2 no report was available. The decided improvement in clothing and footgear recorded this year is undoubtedly due to the higher wages now paid.

Cleanliness of Head.

796 of the 948 children examined had clean heads, a percentage of 84. 152 of the 948 or 16% had dirty heads sufficiently infected to demand treatment.

46 of those 152 children were found at the time of the routine inspections and re-inspections to be harbouring vermin, a percentage of 4.8. Together with 42 cases left over from last year, 200 cases were kept under observation during the year. 106 were treated, 59 being remedied, 37 improved and 10 were unchanged. 69 were not treated and in 25 instances no report was available.

The mother of some children who were constantly verminous and neglected was prosecuted by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The School Medical Officer and another pracititoner attended and gave evidence. The magistrates sentenced the mother, who was a soldier's wife, to a month's imprisonment with hard labour. On her return from prison the mother left the County.

Cleanliness of Body.

15 of the 948 or 1.58% had dirty bodies on the day of inspection. Together with three left over from last year, 20 children were kept under observation during the year. Nine were cleansed, five being improved and four showing some improvement, 8 received no treatment and for 3 no report was available.

Improvements in lavatory accommodation are urgently required at the Oakham Church of England Schools.

Nutrition.

893 of the 948 children examined were of normal nutrition, a percentage of 94.1.

55 or 5.8% were not well nourished. 37 of these or 3.9% demanded treatment while 18 or 1.9% required only observation.
It is interesting to observe the great improvement in nutrition which has taken place since the outbreak of War.
In 1914, 11.3% were below normal, in 1913 13%, in 1912 17.5% and in 1911 12.7%.
It should be noted that the agricultural labourer's wages have, in some instances, nearly doubled since the War broke out.
Together with seven cases left over from last year, 44 were kept under observation. In five of these no report was available, 25 were treated, one being remedied, 20 being improved and 4 had undergone no change. 14 cases received no treatment.
Owing to the kindness of Miss Finch, two children who were considered to be in a pre-tuberculous state were kindly removed and taken to one of the Lodges in the historic Park of Burley. They laid on flesh in the most surprising way. It would repay the Authority to provide treatment of this nature for similar cases.
Fairly full notes were taken on 51 cases. 32 were boys and 19 girls. 34 of these were below normal in nutrition and 17 were of decidedly poor nutrition.
In 28 of these or 54.8%, either one or both of the parents were of markedly poor physique. This figure closely approximates to that of last year, which recorded the appalling percentage of 60.
Many of these women seem to be worn out with constant childbearing. It is not unusual to see a woman of 35 with the appearance of one of 60. One instance strikingly illustrates this. The mother was married at 20 and had 12 children in 15 years. The husband was constantly laid up with chronic rheumatism and ulcerated legs, two of the children were tuberculous and the others strongly disposed to tuberculosis. In addition to this the woman had numerous septic teeth and the housing conditions were unsatisfactory. During her husband's illness the amount of relief granted by the Poor Law Authorities was 15/- per week. Much of the unnecessary suffering endured by this family could have been obviated if the Local Authorities would exercise their powers in :-

1. Providing an adequate dietary for the expectant and nursing mother and child.
2. Supplying adequate domestic accommodation.
3. Ensuring skilled dental treatment.

Poverty was found in four instances. Two of these occurred in the same families as last year. I may remind you that a man had to support his wife and three children on 8/- per week, out of which 2/- had to be paid for rent. The case was reported to you, to local residents and to the Guardians, but nothing was done. As the children were becoming weaker from lack of nourishment, the case was brought to the notice of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The man's wages were, in consequence, raised to 25/- per week. The other family consisted of 8 children and the total income was 18/- per week. It has since been raised to 25/- per week. Two of the poorly nourished children were premature, a percentage of 3.9. In only one instance, a case of pernicious vomiting, could any illness on the part of the mother be considered to be an influential factor in the child's debility.

The method of feeding in infancy was ascertained in 44 instances. 23 or 52% were brought up on the breast, 3 or 7% on the breast supplemented by the bottle and 18 or 41% artificially.

It is found as a general rule that about 70% of all Rutland babies are fed on the breast. These figures therefore, point to the superiority of natural feeding.

In 7 of the 18 artificially fed children, cows milk was supplemented by patent foods or bread sop. Condensed milk was not used in a single instance.

Rickets were only found in 4 of the 51 cases, a percentage of 7.8. In only one of these was the disease of much severity.

Whooping cough was the cause of malnutrition in one boy. Apart from this the infectious disease had no casual relation to the malady.

In 3 or 5% the number of hours devoted to sleep was insufficient.

In 14 of the 51 cases, a percentage of 27, enlarged tonsils and adenoids were present and must be held responsible for the faulty nutrition. Evidences of rheumatic infection and serious dental disease were found in 3 children, a percentage of 5. In two of the cases tuberculosis was diagnosed. Four of the children and one of the mothers worked out of school hours and away from home.

It would appear that defective nutrition is to a great extent inherited and that throat affections exercise a very definite influence.

Dental Disease.

During the year the condition of each child's teeth was carefully recorded as in previous years, but the attention of the parents was only called to very severe conditions of dental caries.
The reason for this course is that there are no institutions available where children can receive treatment.
In the Code groups there were 52 children which were included in the category just mentioned and 7 specials. In addition, 5 children were kept under review from last year. Only 6 of these 64 received treatment, 5 being remedied and 1 relieved without benefit even though treatment had been given. For two children no report was available.
I am glad to say that in a few of the schools the scheme for cleaning the teeth has been continued. In others unfortunately, it has been allowed to lapse.
It is now proposed that you should appoint a whole time dentist, who would have sufficient time at his disposal to inspect and treat the whole of the children on the registers, provided that 50% of the parents refuse to allow their children to receive these advantages.
This is the usual experience in agricultural Counties.
If such is the case, the dentist, when appointed, will have time to devote his attention to the care of nursing and expectant mothers.
This has been done in other areas, but so far, the Government Departments have not yet recognised that there is such a thing as a father and no arrangements are yet approved by the Authorities at Whitehall for the dental treatment of the male over 14 years of age unless he is afflicted with tuberculosis.

Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids.

Nine of the children in the code groups suffered from enlarged tonsils which required treatment and which were not complicated by the presence of adenoids. 47 of the children in the code groups suffered from a slight enlargement of the tonsils not requiring operation. Two of the specials were in a similar category.

21 of the children in the code groups required operations for adenoids which were not complicated by the presence of enlarged tonsils and in three among the specials a similar diagnosis was made.
Ten in the code groups and one among the specials had a slight degree of adenoids which could be remedied by breathing exercises.
76 children in the code groups suffered both from tonsils and adenoids which required operative treatment and 12 of the specials were in a similar condition. Five of those in the routine groups and one of the specials suffered in a slight degree from tonsillar hypertophy and adenoids.
Altogether 121 children this year among the 948 examined or 12.7% had a marked enlargement of the tonsils and a considerable mass of adenoid tissue. 72 cases were left over from last year so that altogether 193 were kept under observation. 53 of these cases were submitted to operation or 28.5%. 47 of these were cured, 2 were much improved and in 4 there was no change. For one child no report was available and in 139 no treatment was provided.
It would be interesting to note the number of cases treated from 1910.
In 1910 38, in 1911 61, in 1912 68, in 1913 65, in 1914 57, in 1915 38, in 1916 32 and in 1917 53.
Altogether 412 children have been operated upon in the last 8 years.
In 98 cases full notes were taken, 55 of these were girls and 43 were boys. In 53 of these serious dental caries was present, a rather higher percentage than would attain in normal children.
In 24 a serious degree of nasal obstruction was obvious to quite casual inspection. In 11 the speech was indistinct, one of these stammered badly. In 11 bronchial catarrh was present and pulmonary collapse was evidenced by dulness at the apices and diminished breath sounds was noted in 6 instances.
In 21 instances malnutrition was recorded. This therefore, occurs four times as commonly as among normal children. In 27 marked degrees of mouth breathing were recorded. In 20 of the 98 children there was serious educational retardment. One child was mentally defective, one was 7 years behind, another 5 years, another 4 years, four 3 years, eight 2 years and four 1 year the average child.

Earache was noted in 18 of the cases, otorrhoea or discharge from the ear in 4, and deafness or a history of deafness in 28. It should be noted that only 12 of these were found to be deaf at the time of inspection, but every case of deafness found this year was due to abnormal conditions of the throat and nose. In 13 of the 98 cases a history of growing pains or other signs of rheumatism was observed. In two instances rheumatic disease of the heart were evident. In only one case, however, had there been an attack of typical articular rheumatism.

Enlargement of the thyroid was noticed in 3 instances, but all these cases were females between the ages of 12 and 14 years.

Nocturnal enuresis or bed wetting was noted in four instances.

These figures show what an enormous amount of harm is done to children both mentally and physically by neglect of treatment and it is therefore, much to be regretted that you decided not to include the treatment of these conditions in your scheme.

The exact effect of decayed teeth on the health of the child is unknown, and although a scheme of dental treatment as is now proposed by you is undoubtedly right, it cannot, owing to the fact that such treatment should be continued throughout life, be of such service to the school population as the remedying of nasal obstruction. It is proposed that this part of the work should be relegated to Local Care Committees, who will make use of different institutions and agents. It cannot be too widely known that the modern treatment of these defects is the work of a specialist, that recently the operations have been elaborated and that much of the Medical Officer's time is taken up in persuading the parents to submit their children to a second operation. There is no operation in surgery which is worse performed.

In any case, I would strongly urge that recalcitrant parents be interviewed by the Medical Service Sub-Committee and that extreme cases be prosecuted. In the event of the Magistrates refusing to convict, you and your Medical Officer would rest assured that every step possible had been taken.

Defective Hearing and Ear Disease.

There were 13 cases of deaf children among the 948 children examined.

a percentage of 1.3. Together with two cases kept under observation from last year there were 15 cases of which 8 were treated, 1 being remedied and 6 improved while 1 remained unchanged. 6 were not treated and for 1 no report was available.

There are now two children in Institutions for the training of the deaf. One is making excellent progress at Leeds, at the Blenheim School, the other is only doing moderately well.

There were 6 cases of ear disease among the 948 children examined, a percentage of 0.6. These were all cases of otorrhoea. Six were treated, two being remedied and 4 improved.

External Eye Disease.

There were only 7 cases among the 948 children examined. These were for the most part simple soreness of the eyelids. There were one or two cases of nystagmus. Three were treated, two being remedied and one improved, three were not treated and in one instance no report was available.

Defective Eyesight.

57 of the 948 children examined suffered from defective vision, a percentage of 6. 37 were left over from last year so that 94 cases were kept under observation during the year. 26 of these or 27% received treatment, 22 being remedied, 3 improved and 1 unchanged. 60 received no treatment while no report was available for 8.

One boy who was found last year to be almost blind from corneal opacities was removed to a school for the blind where he is making most excellent progress. His father refused to allow him to go so the case was tried at the Petty Sessions at Oakham. He was sent by the Magistrates to the School and his parents were forced to pay 2/6d per week towards his maintenance. The Secretary and the School Medical Officer attended and gave evidence. Two other children who were mentioned in last year's report as being blind from congenital cataract have been sent by the Guardians to the School for the Blind.

Defective Speech.

Slight slurring of the speech due in all cases to enlarged tonsils and adenoids was noticed in 21 cases, a percentage of 2.2. Only three of these were bad enough to require treatment. One was treated and

improved and the remaining two received no medical or surgical treatment.

Diseases of the Lungs including Tuberculosis.

No definite cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were found among the 948 children examined. 13 cases of abnormality were noted. One was a case of simple bronchial catarrh, another a case of collapse at the apices associated with enlarged tonsils and adenoids, while 11 others presented dulness at one or both apices. In one of these 11 enlarged supraclavicular glands were present. All these cases were kept under observation during the year, but in none were loss of weight or marked deterioration in health observed.
Loss of weight is the most important and trustworthy sign of tuberculosis in children. The advanced case of pulmonary tuberculosis alluded to in last year's report is now dead. His brother has returned from the Sanatorium with the disease arrested. The case of the child with enlarged glands above the clavicle and a fibrotic condition of the lungs is doing well. As her sputum is negative, i.e. free from tubercle bacilli, she has been allowed to attend school.

Other Forms of Tuberculosis.

Only two cases of other forms of tuberculosis were noted among the 948 children examined. Of these one was not treated and the other was treated and remedied. The case of hip-joint disease referred to in last year's report is doing well but is now past school age. The boy with cutaneous tuberculosis is making slow but excellent progress. The child for whom Sanatorium treatment for tubercular peritonitis was referred is not improving.

Heart Disease and Anaemia.

There were 7 cases of cardiac disorder among the 948 children examined. Five of these were cases of mitral regurgitation, one of organic stenosis and one of functional disease.
There were 6 cases of anaemia, three being sufficiently severe to require treatment. Four ofthese ten cases were treated, 1 being remedied and 3 improved, while six cases received no satisfactory medical attention.

Deformities.

16 cases of deformity were found among the 948 children examined.

There were four deformities ensuing from badly united fractures of arms or legs. Three bow legs, two knock knee, two flat feet, one club foot, one accessory ear, one adherent lobule of ear, one curvature of spine and one case of spina bifida.
Only seven of these cases received treatment, five were held over from last year. Eight were known to have received no treatment and concerning two no report was available. Two were treated, one being remedied and one improved.

Ringworm and Other Diseases of the Skin.

Six cases of Tinea Capitis were discovered among the 948 children examined as compared with 10 cases in 1916, 14 in 1915, 11 in 1914, 9 in 1913, 14 in 1912, 15 in 1911 and 13 in 1910 (half year only) These figures refer to the code groups only. The following have been the numbers of children excluded for this disease from 1910.

Year.	No. of Children Excluded.
1910 (Half Year only)	36
1911	52
1912	66
1913	52
1914	43
1915	50
1916	33
1917.	16

This, I think, must in part be due to the strict supervision and exclusion exercised over cases of ringworm. of the head and to the adoption of X ray treatment. It is unfortunate that this method of treatment is not compulsory.
In Paris where this has been carried out the disease is now extinct.
During the year 16 children were excluded for this complaint.
The numbers in brackets indicate those excluded from each school:- Market Overton (3), Greetham (1), Langham (2), Uppingham Middex (2), Uppingham Infants (5), Oakham Infants (1) and Essendine (2).
During the year 12 cases were submitted to epilation by X rays and four refused to undergo this treatment. 11 cases are cured and one is still going to Uppingham. You have continuedtto pay the travelling expenses and the fee to the radiologist as in previous years.
There were 12 other cases of skin disease among the 948 examined. 5 of scabies, 3 of ichthyosis, 3 of impetigo, 2 of eczema, 1 of lichen, 1 tuberculide and 1 of alopecia areata.

During the year it was necessary to exclude 45 other cases of scabies. It is a most disgraceful thing that an easily diagnosed and easily controlled disease of this nature should have been allowed by the Army Authorities to run rampant throughout Great Britian. It is the cause of much suffering and the enormous loss of attendance is an additional burden to the overtaxed ratepayer.
16 of the cases of skin diseased found this year and two left over from last year required treatment during the year. 15 were treated, 11 being cured, 3 improved and 1 unchanged.

Rickets.

Only 4 cases of this disease were notified. Two of these showed severe deformity and required treatment. So far, none of the cases have sought medical advice. The case of late rickets alluded to in last year's report as having developed tuberculosis has since died. Unfortunately, no post mortem examination was obtained.

Nervous Diseases.

No serious nervous malady was noted among the 948 children examined. There were four cases of nocturnal enuresis, two were treated and improved and two received no medical attention.
One of the cases of epilepsy mentioned in last year's report has died, and another, being a child from a good home, will be dealt with by his parents.

Other Diseases.

Among other diseases were noted 13 cases of enlarged thyroid gland, 6 of hernia, 4 of naevus, 3 of phimosis, 1 of osteoma of the osealtis, 1 of Hygroma and 1 of spina bifida. One of the cases of enlarged thyroid gland was seen by a surgeon but operation was not advised. Two of the cases of hernia were operated upon and one was treated by a truss. One case of phimosis was treated by an operation.

Backwardness and Mental Deficiency.

82 children among the 948 examined were diagnosed as being dull or backward. 18 of these were one standard behindhand, 42 two standards, 19 three standards, 2 four standards and 1 six standards.

26 of those 82 cases were due to enlarged tonsils and adenoids, 18 to bad eyesight, 11 to bad attendance, 5 to bad social circumstances, 4 to innate dulness, 1 to overwork out of school hours and 1 to doutbful tuberculosis. In as many as 23 no cause could be ascertained. The cases which are due to faulty throat conditions, bad eyesight and bad attendance could easily be remedied.

During the year, you have, on my bringing the matter to your notice, provided extra tuition out of school hours forchildren attending Ridlington, Ryhall and Greetham Schools. In all instances, considerable progress has been made.

Except in urban areas it would appear that little has been done for those unfortunate children, but it would seem that legislation must, in the future, make special provision for children who are late in developing powers which may eventually prove of great value to themselves and others.

During the year 12 cases were diagnosed as being mentally defective, 3 of these being imbeciles and the rest feebleminded. One feeble-minded boy was sent by you during the year to Starcross and is doing well. One Cretin is still being regularly supplied with Thyroid extract and is making most excellent progress in school and can now be considered as only slightly backward.

The number of defectives in your area can briefly be summarized as follows

		Boys	Girls	Total
BLIND. (Including partially blind)	Attending Public Elemt: Schools.	5	1	6
	Attending Cert: Schools for the Blind.	3	-	3
	Not at School.	-	-	-
DEAF & DUMB. (Including partially deaf)	Attending Public Elemt: Schools	1	2	3
	Attending cert: Schools for deaf	1	1	2
	Not at School.	-	-	-
MENTALLY DEFICIENT. (Feeble Minded)	Attending Pub: Elemt: Schools.	8	6	14
	Attending Cert: Schools for M.D.	1		1
	Notified to Local Authorities during the year.	2	2	4
	Not at School.	3	-	3
(Imbeciles)	At School.	3	6	9
	Not at School.	3	-	3
(Idiots)		2	2	4
EPILEPTICS.	Attending Pub: Elemt: Schools.	-	-	-
	" Cert: Schools for Epilept.	-	-	-
	Not at School.	1	-	1

School Closures for Infectious Diseases.

The following schools were closed for the reasons and periods stated below :-

Name of School.	Cause.	Period.
Thistolton. Thistleton.	Colds.	From March 7th to March 11th 1917.
Thistleton.	Whooping-Cough.	From Aug.4th to Aug.17th and again from Sept.23rd to Sept. 30th 1917.
Tinwell.	Mumps.	April 19th to May 10th 1917.
Whissendine.	Measles.	May 4th to June 1st 1917.
Braunston.	Whooping-Cough & Mumps.	June 2nd to June 18th 1917.
Exton (C.of E).	Colds & Coughs.	Oct.4th to Oct. 25th 1917.
Market Overton.	Whooping-Cough.	Nov.9th to Dec. 2nd 1917.
Cottesmore (Mixed)	Mumps.	Jan.23th to Feb.23rd & again from Feb.23rd to Feb. 28th 1917.
Cottesmore (Infants)	Mumps.	From Jan. 10th to Jan. 30th and again from Jan. 30th to Feb. 5th 1917.
Greetham.	Colds.	From Jan.14th to Jan.23rd and from Jan. 24th to Jan. 28th 1917.
Greetham.	Mumps.	March 30th to April 22nd 1917.

Exclusion of Individual Scholars on Account of Infectious Diseases and Other Ailments.

Reason for Exclusion.	No of Scholars Excluded.
Scabies.	50
Mumps.	149
Ringworm of Body.	9
Ringworm of Scalp.	16
Measles.	39
Contact to Measles.	4
Chilblains.	1
Tuberculous Glands.	2
Debility.	7
Impetigo.	37
Meningitis.	1
Sore Throat.	3
Swollen Glands.	1
Influenza.	2

Reason for Exclusion.	No. of Scholars Excluded.
Tubercular Abscesses.	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis.	2
Chicken pox.	44
Contact to Chicken Pox.	1
Whooping Cough.	63
Contact to Whooping Cough.	13
Swollen Throat.	2
Sores.	5
Ulcerated Legs.	2
Enteritis.	1
Anaemia.	4
Scarlet Fever.	7
Contact to Scarlet Fever.	8
Tonsillitis.	3
Boils.	1
Tuberculide on neck.	1
Hepatic Catarrh.	1
Chorea.	2
German Measles.	3
Diphtheria.	2
Contact to Diphtheria.	3
Pediculi.	4
Cardiac Disease.	1
Headache due to Eyestrain.	1
Fractured Arm.	1
Febricula.	1

FOLLOWING UP.

742 recommendations were made for treatment. 297 or 40% were treated. 164 were remedied, 108 improved and in 25 no change was recorded. 389 children received no treatment of any kind.

The percentage of cases receiving treatment varies from 100% in the case of lung trouble and 93.7% in cases of skin disease to 9% in cases of decayed teeth. The class of cases which receive treatment are minor ailments, ringworm and tuberculosis, all of which are treated by the Local Authority.

Only 53 out of 193 cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids received treatment and only 26 out of 94 cases of defective eyesight.

If the latter figures be compared with those of other authorities some degree of complacency may be regained. Thus, in Warwickshire, with 15 Health Visitors and a school population 12 times as great as that of Rutland, only 161 cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids were treated. In Sheffield, another huge centre with a School Clinic, only 279 cases were treated. It seems certain by these figures that no form of following up either by school nurses or care committees can be expected to yield any result comparable to the money and energy expended. Some degree of authority and appearance of

compulsion is necessary. The male officers of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children experience but little difficulty in persuading the parents to obtain treatment and in getting them to cleanse their children. Whether a male school nurse would be more effective or not I cannot say.
There is little doubt, however, that a male nurse could do far more work than a female. Cycling is the great obstacle to the satisfactory employment of female labour in this sphere.
During the year a scheme for the treatment of eye defects, dental defects and the setting up of care committees throughout the County was approved by the Education Committee and now awaits the approval of the County Council.
A whole time dentist is recommended and it is hoped to obtain the services of a skilled ophthalmic surgeon, who would visit the County at stated intervals. It is much to be regretted that the treatment of enlarged tonsils and adenoids has not be included.
The effects of bad teeth on children are not known, although on adults, their influence is a matter of common knowledge.
On the other hand, enlarged tonsils and adenoids cause great deterioration in health both mentally and physically.
However, as complete reorganisation of the public health service in the United Kingdom is contemplated, there is little doubt the public medical work of all present bodies will be merged into one central department and one Committee for each Local Authority.
A great opportunity awaits our Central and Directing Departments, and it seems highly improbable that they can devise anything worse than the present system of chaos, overlapping and waste.

CHRISTOPHER ROLLESTON.